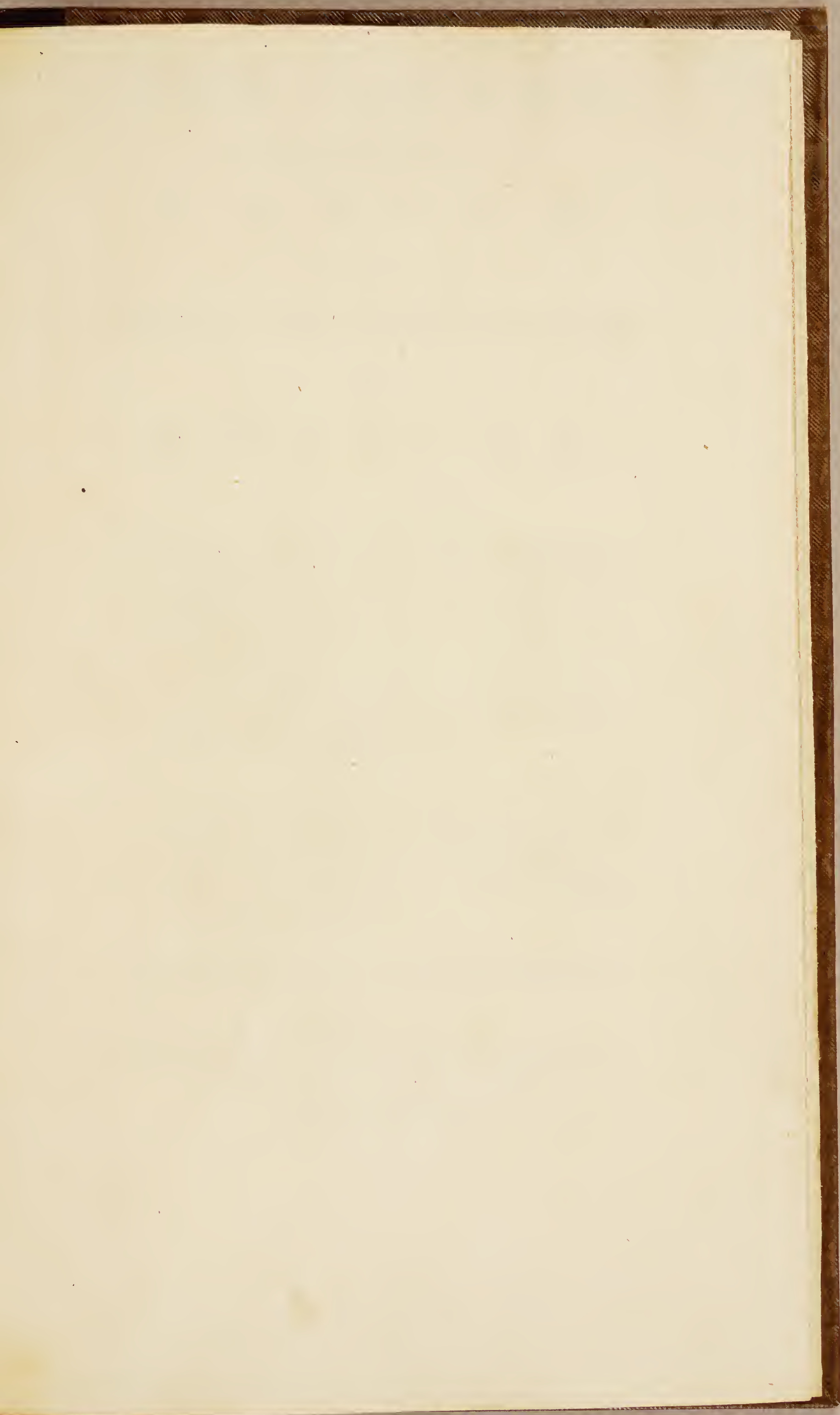


A 44e



John Carter Brown.



75:3

Red. p. 109

TWO PAPERS,

On the SUBJECT of

TAXING

THE

BRITISH COLONIES

IN

AMERICA.

The FIRST entitled,

“ Some REMARKS on the most rational and  
“ effectual Means that can be used in the  
“ present Conjuncture for the future Se-  
“ curity and Preservation of the Trade of  
“ *Great-Britain*, by protecting and ad-  
“ vancing her Settlements on the North  
“ Continent of *America*.”

The OTHER,

“ A PROPOSAL for establishing by Act of  
“ Parliament the Duties upon Stamp Pa-  
“ per and Parchment in all the *British*  
“ *American Colonies*.”

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite BURLINGTON-  
HOUSE, in PICCADILLY. 1767.

[ Price SIX-PENCE. ]

J. H. B. P. O. 1877

JOHN CARTER BROWN

WILLIAM CHURCH

J. H. B. P. O. 1877

The undersigned  
do hereby certify that  
the within and above  
mentioned person  
is a member of the  
said church and  
has been so since  
the date of his  
admission.

Witness my hand  
and seal this  
day of  
1877.

WILLIAM CHURCH  
Pastor

RPJCB

---

TO THE  
R E A D E R.

THE following Papers were drawn up by a Club of *American* Merchants ; at the Head of whom were Sir WILLIAM KEITH, Governor of *Pennsylvania* ; the celebrated Mr. JOSHUA GEE, and many other eminent Persons. They were printed and published in the Year 1739, and are now re-printed and re-published entire, that the World may see what were the Sentiments and Doctrines, at that Time, of the greatest Friends to *America*, and of those who were best acquainted with the Rights and Commercial Interest of the Colonies ; particularly with regard to the Establishment of Stamp-Duties in *America*, by the Parliament of *Great-Britain*, and the Application of the Revenue arising therefrom ; in both which Respects, the Plan contained in these Papers agrees exactly

iv TO THE READER.

exactly with the Stamp-Act repealed during the last Session of Parliament. By comparing these Papers, which were printed near thirty Years ago, with the Doctrines lately broached in *America*, and now publicly avowed here by Ministers of State for the first Time, the Reader may be enabled to form some Judgment of the Merit or Demerit which those who have supported or resisted them have had to the King, the Parliament, and the People of *Great-Britain*; and it is therefore hoped, that the Publication of them cannot be thought improper at this Juncture.



*Some*



---

*Some REMARKS on the most rational and effectual Means that can be used in the present Conjunction for the future Security and Preservation of the Trade of Great Britain, by protecting and advancing her Settlements on the North Continent of America.*

THE Incroachments and considerable Advantages which of late Years have been made, especially by *France*, on the *British* Commerce every where, but more particularly in the *West Indies*, by Means of that Nation's having the Preference to furnish the *Spaniards* with all they want in those Parts, and consequently to ingross an immoderate Share of that Wealth or Bullion which is the Support of all *European* Trade, is a Matter of such Consequence, as calls for our immediate and most sedate Deliberation; because, unless we can either bring the *Spanish* Nation into that Freedom of Commerce

B with

with us again, as they have formerly been accustomed to, and would naturally chuse, or by some particular Industry secure to Ourselves all those Advantages which can be made in Trade, by carefully protecting and encouraging our many extensive and valuable Settlements in *America*, it will in all Appearance be impossible for *Great Britain* much longer to sustain that Rank, which she has now held for almost two Centuries amongst her *European* Neighbours.

With great Deference and Submission therefore to whatever the Councils of *Great Britain* may think fit in the present Juncture of Time to determine, with regard to Peace or War, it is humbly proposed only, that some little Care should be immediately taken to put our Colonies, especially in the Continent of *North America*, in a proper Condition either to defend themselves against any Attacks that can be made on them in War, or to protect and duly encourage their lawful Commerce in Time of Peace.

For this Purpose, if we please to consider first the Situation of the *British* Colonies,

Colonies\*, with respect to their Rivals in *America*, and how the *French* have most indefatigably carried on their Friendship and Correspondence with the Natives all along bordering upon and behind our Settlements, from *Quebeck* to the Mouth of the River *Mississippi* in the Gulf of *Mexico*; so that our Indian Traders are continually obstructed from travelling Westward on the Lakes by a Multitude of little Forts, erected at proper Distances, and filled with *French* Soldiers to protect their own, and interrupt our Commerce that Way; by which Means the vast and numerous Nations of *Indians* to the Westward are wholly deprived from the Opportunity of dealing with the *English*, notwithstanding that we can afford all the Commodities they want at above 150 *per Cent.* cheaper than what they pay to our Rivals: And next, if we do but examine the vast Disproportion of Numbers between Us and Them, as well as the much greater Variety of Commodities wherewith We

B 2 can

\* Vid. *A Report to the Lords of Trade from the Governor of Pennsylvania*, February 1718.

can more readily supply that Trade, and the prodigious Spirit and Inclination in our People to carry it on, nothing surely but infatuation can suffer us to delay one Moment in raising such a small Number of Regular Troops, to be constantly employed there, as would maintain our unquestionable Right to the vacant Lands on the Back of our own Settlements, encourage the Progress of our Plantations Westward, and thereby easily open to Ourselves a free Correspondence with those vast and populous Nations of *Indians*, to whom, merely for lack of the common Means of Access to them, we are at present altogether Strangers.

So very important is the Nature of this Subject just now, that in case of a War, if our Settlements should continue in that weak and helpless Condition they are now, to lie exposed to the Insults and Attacks of the Enemy, without the Protection of any Kind of Fortifications either before or behind them, and without the Aid of any other Troops but a loose, disorderly, and insignificant Militia, surely we can expect nothing  
else

else but such Defolation and Ruin, as the Industry of many Years to come will not be able to repair.

Wherefore it is humbly proposed, that a small Body of Regular Troops be immediately raised for that Service on the North Continent of *America*, to be commanded and disposed of all along the Western Frontier of our Settlements there, by an experienced General Officer under the Crown, independent on the particular Orders of the respective Governors, yet to be assisted by them in Council on every emergent Occasion: The Resolutions from Time to Time, and whole Proceedings of which General Council to be constantly transmitted and laid before the King in his Privy Council, as the dernier Resort and supreme Authority in all Affairs relating to the Plantations; some such Regulation as this, it is humbly conceived, would effectually prevent all or most of the Dangers and Losses, we have, as Matters now stand, but too just Cause to apprehend, and at the same Time it would give such Protection and Encouragement  
to

to all manner of Business in the Plantations, as would greatly please the People Abroad, and likewise bring considerable Profit to the Merchant at Home; so that there is good Reason to expect the *British* Subjects in *America*, for whose immediate Advantage and particular Service this Scheme is chiefly designed, would on that Account chearfully comply with any moderate and easy Tax that could be laid on them for so good and necessary a Purpose; *on Condition however that all the Money to be so levied amongst them should be punctually and strictly applied to this Service, and no other: From all which we presume to affirm, that if the Duty on Stamps was, by Act of Parliament, now established in all the British Colonies, and that the Product of that Revenue was, by the same Authority, strictly appropriated to the Service of those Plantations only, it would most certainly answer the proposed End, for the Encouragement and Protection of Commerce, and, thereby, the true Service and Honour of the British Nation; all which is most humbly submitted to the*

Consideration

Consideration and Judgment of our Superiors.

Much has been said and wrote of late about the Decay of the Woollen Manufactory; but, without entering into the particular and various Reasons, how that Staple has suffered, and been reduced from the very flourishing Condition it was in a few Years ago, it will certainly be more prudent, and therefore eligible, to discover and encourage a new Vent for the Woollen Manufactory of *Great Britain*, than to strain our Invention otherways, by contending with those Advantages, which our Rivals have obtained by such Industry and Management, as we can neither interrupt nor prevent.

Supposing, then, that by due Encouragement to the Colonies, especially on the Continent of *America*, we should proportionably increase a constant Demand for our coarse Woollens, which is allowed to be the Bulk of that Manufactory, we shall thereby secure a certain and profitable Vent for that valuable Staple, independent of all Foreign Nations,

Nations, and in Despite of any Arts they can possibly use to obstruct us; which Consideration alone is sufficient to demonstrate the important Advantage, which must accrue to *Britain* by protecting, encouraging, and extending her Plantations on the Continent of *America*.





---

PROPOSAL for establishing by Act of Parliament the Duties upon Stamp Paper and Parchment in all the British American Colonies.

THE Contiguous Situation of the *British Colonies* on the Coast of the Northern Continent of *America*, is not only a very great Advantage to the Trade of *Britain*, but likewise has of late Years produced such an Increase of Inhabitants, as has rendered them vastly Superior in Strength of People, when compared either with the *French* or *Spanish* Settlements on the same Continent; so that under a wise and good Regulation of Government, *Britain* has little to fear from her Rivals in *America*, and may easily provide for the Safety and Protection of her Dominions there without the Trouble of frequent Equipments, or expensive Expeditions from *Europe*.

C

But

But as the Policy of the *British* State, has wisely divided those Settlements into many separate Governments independent on one another, whereby they cannot be forced into any Union of Councils, or otherways deprived of that Liberty which is peculiar to the Subject of *Great-Britain*, some other Method must be contrived, in Case of any Breach with *France* or *Spain*, to raise a public Fund in *America* for the Maintenance and Support of any Military Force, which may be found useful and necessary to be kept up in those Parts, in order to preserve the Ballance of Power, and protect the Trade of *Britain*.

For this Purpose it is proposed, that without obstructing in the least any Branch of Commerce, or affecting the Property of Lands in that Part of the *British* Dominions, the Duties on Stamps may be extended by Act of Parliament to all the Colonies, and the Produce applied to answer the Expence of Land Forces and other Public and necessary Services in the *American* Plantations, to the great Ease of the Mother State, and  
without

without the Trouble of applying to the several Assemblies in so many Distinct and Independent Provinces, who never could be brought in voluntarily to raise such a Fund by any general and equally proportioned Tax among themselves.

It is likewise proposed, that the several Kinds of Stamps to be struck for *America* shall be different, and bear a remarkable Distinction from those used in *Great-Britain*; and that there shall be one Commissioner added to the present Commission for the Stamp Office, who shall be a Member of that Board, and accountable to the same for all such Quantities of Stamps as he shall call for and receive out of that Office for the Use of the Plantations.

That the said Commissioner for *America* shall receive his Instructions from the Board at *London*, and be directed forthwith to proceed to every one of the Colonies in *America*, and there to depute such and so many Persons in each Colony, as he shall judge needful, to reside at the most convenient Places for the delivering out all such Stamps as the Peo-

ples Occasions may require, and are called for from Time to Time, he taking good and sufficient Security for the Fidelity of the Officers so by him deputed, giving them at the same Time Instructions how and in what Manner the Money or Value of the Stamps so by them delivered out shall be returned to the Stamp Office at *London*, where all Accounts of that Revenue are to be regularly made up, and returned every Quarter, and the whole Management thereof submitted to the Direction of that Board from Time to Time.

That the Commissioner for *America* shall have Power to settle the yearly Allowance or Salary to be given to the Officers his Deputies and Clerks abroad, and he be allowed for his own Trouble and Expence, which will be very considerable in travelling from Place to Place, the Sum of

*per Annum.*

REASONS, *humbly offered in Support of the above Proposal to extend the Duties on Stamp Paper and Parchment all over the British Plantations.*

The Author of the above Proposal disclaims, all Views of depriving the *British* Subjects in the Plantations, of any of those Rights and Privileges which are derived to them as natural-born Subjects of *Great-Britain*; but on the other Hand, he cannot consider that Part of his Majesty's Subjects Abroad to be invested with any Sort of Rights or Privileges, that are of a higher and more independent Nature than what their Brethren of *Great-Britain* can claim at Home. For he considers all the *American* Provinces as so many distinct Incorporations, who, from the Accident of their distant Situation, are invested with various Privileges, essentially necessary to their Society in separate independent Governments. But he conceives that the Subjects there, are under no other supreme Legislature but that of *Great-Britain*;

*Britain*; infomuch that every Subject in *America*, as often as his Occasions require, has an indubitable Right to make his humble Application to a *British* Parliament, where he virtually conceives himself to be truly represented; because the common Interest of the *British* State or Commonwealth, most certainly includes the Subjects of *America*, equally with those of every other Part of the Dominion, and so we find it to be understood by the Tenor of the famous Act of Navigation, as well as other restrictive Acts relating to Commerce and the public Revenue.

When People therefore pretend to distinguish between the Interest of the Plantations and that of *Great-Britain*, they do not advert that these two, from the Nature of Things, must always be the same, even so when the particular Interest or Advantage of any one Colony is placed in Opposition to that of all the rest; it is quite from the Purpose, and cannot in that Light be supposed to merit the Consideration of a legislative supreme Power.

The

The Grounds of the present War with *Spain* sufficiently declare, that it is the Interest of the *British* State to maintain and defend her Settlements in *America*. And the Condition of many Branches of the public Revenue, as well as of the national Trade, for some Time past, in like Manner demonstrate, that to promote the Interest of the Plantations in general, to extend their Settlements Westward, and protect their Trade with the Natives, is a very considerable public Concern, worthy the Attention of the Legislature. And it being not only a received Maxim in Policy, but the peculiar Badge of a free Constitution, that every Member of a Commonwealth ought to bear his just Proportion of whatever public Taxes are needful to be raised for supporting the Rank, or improving the Interest of the State, we may equitably conclude, that since it is evidently become necessary for *Britain* to erect Forts, and maintain a reasonable Number of Troops for the Defence of her Dominions in *America*, the Subjects there will have no just Cause to complain

plain, if, for that particular Service, one of the easiest and least burthensome Taxes, which the Wisdom of Parliament has thought fit to impose on the Subjects of *Great-Britain* at Home, be now extended to the Plantations in *America*.

Some of the Advantages that would accrue to *Britain*, as well as to her Colonies, by such an Act of Parliament, are conceived to be as follows, *viz.*

I. All the Colonies, but especially those on the Continent, would immediately and most sensibly feel the warm Influence of such a Protection and Support in carrying on their industrious Commerce, and extending their Settlements, as they have not hitherto had any Experience of; and it would be a mighty Encouragement for them to have annually the Occasion of observing, that the Money raised amongst themselves for this Service, was strictly accounted for to Parliament, and duly applied for their proper Benefit.

II. It



- II. It would put an entire Stop to all those Complaints and Disputes daily arising between the People of the Colonies and their respective Governors, about raising Forces, and otherwise complying with the Royal Instructions, in Matters which are truly beyond their Capacities, and always contradictory to their selfish and narrow Dispositions.
- III. It would gradually, with Time, introduce amongst them a more just and favourable Opinion of their Dependency on a *British* Parliament, than what they generally have at present; and as it would intitle them, on many Occasions, to seek Redress in Parliament, it would keep the superior and arbitrary Officers amongst them in some Awe, and prevent a Multitude of injurious, oppressive Practices, which would perhaps be thought too invidious to enumerate here.
- IV. The Expence of Stamps would be a very proper and easy Cheque to that immoderate Quantity of Paper Bills
- D struck

- struck in many of the Colonies, to the Discouragement of fair Trade, especially from *Europe*, and which no Method yet tried has been found sufficient to regulate within due Bounds.
- V. It would place the united Strength of all the Colonies together into the Hands of the Crown, without affecting their constant and necessary Independency on one another.

---

DOUGLAS, in his *Summary of America*, written and published at *Boston*, in the Year 1749, says,  
 “ As vexatious Suits in Law are a great Nuisance  
 “ in all Countries, and the smaller the Charges of  
 “ Courts, the greater is the Encouragement to  
 “ such Suits; therefore there should be a *Stamp-*  
 “ *Duty* upon all Writings, or Instruments, used  
 “ in Law Affairs.”

*Vide* Vol. I. p. 259.

---

F I N I S.

*This Day is Published,*

Price THREE SHILLINGS Bound,

JOSHUA GEE'S TREATISE on the TRADE and NAVIGATION of GREAT-BRITAIN. A New Edition. To which are now first added, several Interesting NOTES, and an APPENDIX concerning the TRADE with PORTUGAL.

The CONDUCT of the Late ADMINISTRATION Examined, relative to the AMERICAN STAMP-ACT. With an APPENDIX, containing the Original PAPERS on that Subject. Price 3 s.

A COLLECTION of TRACTS, lately published in BRITAIN and AMERICA, on the Subjects of Taxing the AMERICAN COLONIES, and Regulating their TRADE. In Two Volumes. Price 14 s. bound.

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite Burlington-House, in Piccadilly.

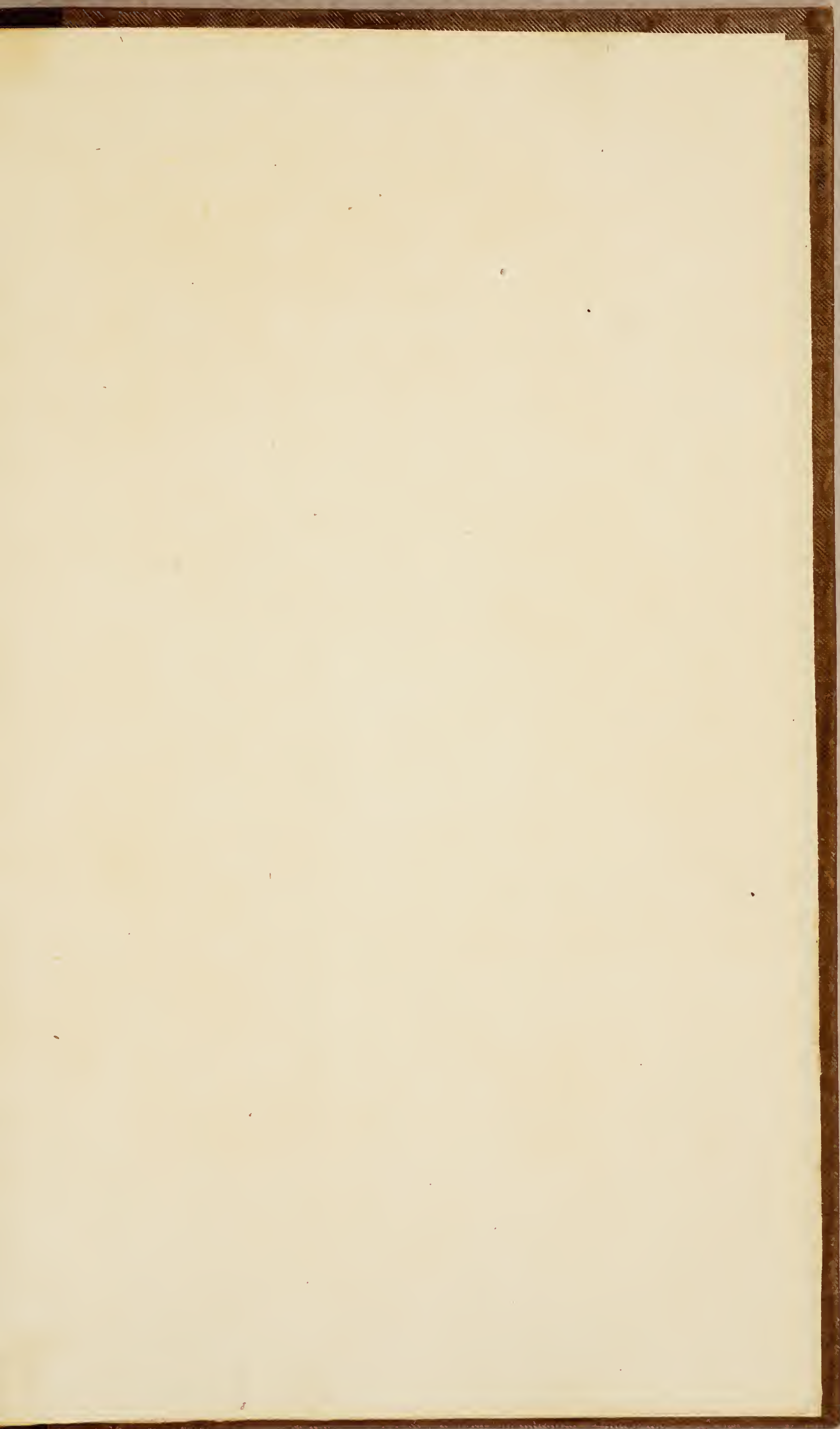
*By whom, on the 1st of June, 1767, will be published,*

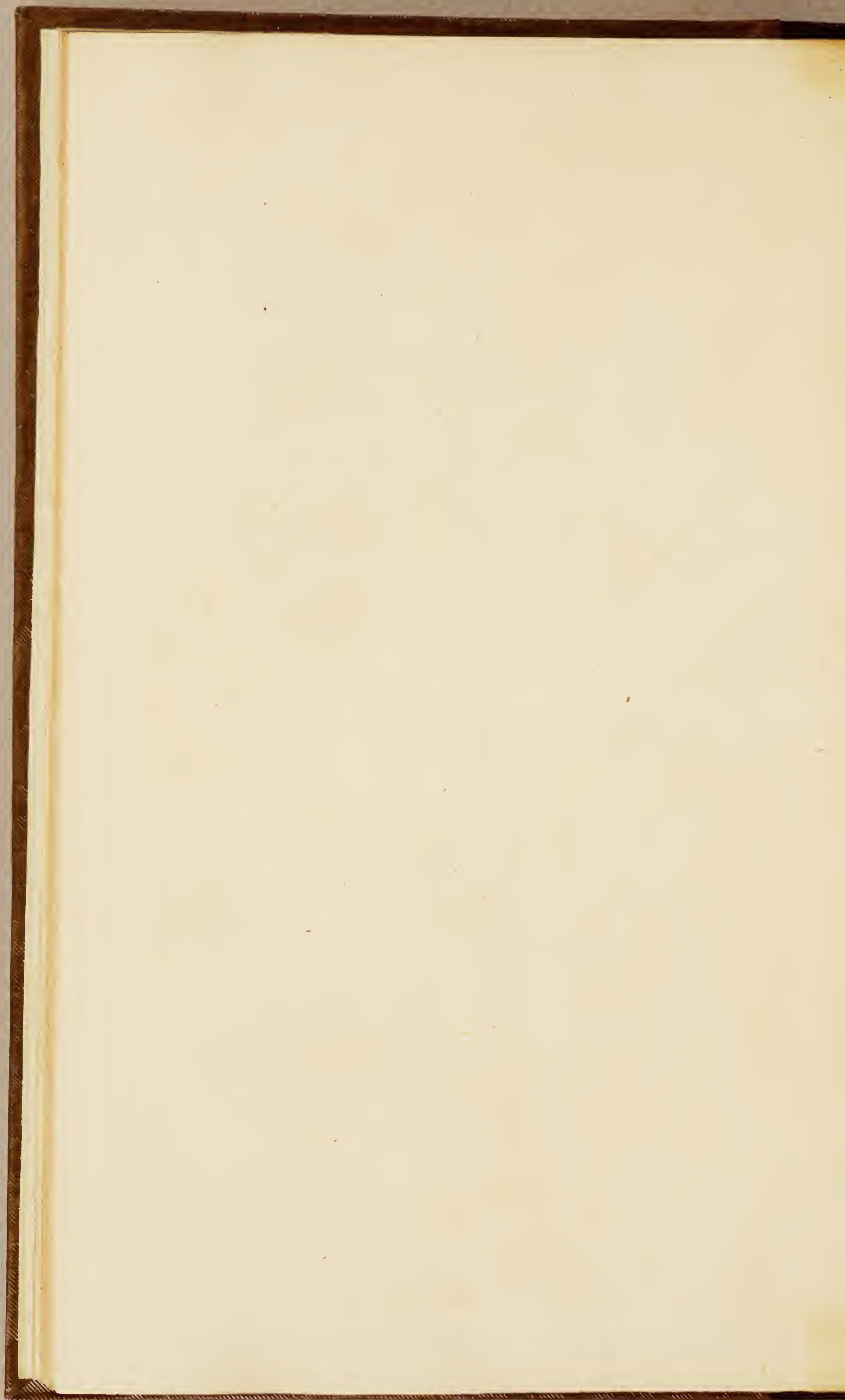
NUMBER I. of a NEW WORK,

To be continued Monthly, Price One Shilling, entitled,

The POLITICAL REGISTER : Containing ORIGINAL ESSAYS on the BRITISH CONSTITUTION, and such Measures of Administration as deserve particular Attention : In which will occasionally be inserted several *Interesting Papers*, relative to the Management of Public Affairs, and other Points of National Importance. Foreign Politics, the State of *Europe*, &c. An Impartial REVIEW of NEW BOOKS and PAMPHLETS ; stating with Candour and Precision the Design and Tendency of each Publication. A COLLECTION of such FUGITIVE ESSAYS and PAPERS as appear during the Month, and are deemed worthy of Preservation.







D 767  
T 974 p

